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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
AND THE
PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY

REPORTS
for the Year 1952

of the Medical Officer of Health
W. H. BUTCHER, V.R.D., M.A.,
D.M., D.P.H., BARRISTER - AT - LAW,
SURGEON COMMANDER R.N.V.R.



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
LOFTUS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my sixth Annual Report for the year 1952, the contents and arrangements of which are in accordance with Circular 2,53 of the Ministry of Health.

I have just returned from one of my tours of the moorland parts of my districts and have seen with my own eyes tangible evidence that the Sealing Dam project is actually being commenced; I hope that its completion will be more rapid than its inception. This prospect of adequate water makes brighter the future of the public health. Good sanitary circumstances are essential for healthy living, equal in importance only to a knowledge among the public how to live healthily.

On this occasion I would like to refer to one other matter that strikes me as being of particular importance at the present time, namely, the care of the aged, or to use the word recently coined from the Greek, Geriatrics—the care and support of the aged so that they are the least burden to the nation and retain the greatest happiness for themselves. Our population is ageing because the public health has extended the span of life and has moreover delayed the onset of senescence: men of 65 today are generally as vigorous as those a considerable number of years their junior a hundred years ago. Some may not be mentally or physically able to work: others, particularly in heavy work, will need transferring to lighter occupations: a large number, if not quite so agile as of yore, have that inestimable asset—experience. To let these rust in retirement—and they are an ever increasing number—trying to pursue hobbies or find odd jobs is to render null and void the greatest achievement of a hundred years of the public health. They are the elderly, but what about the aged—those past real work—and they, too, are an ever increasing number—who require care and support, in plain words the infirm old people? It is both economical and humane to keep these out of the institutions for as long as possible even if there were sufficient beds: the domestic help service of the Local Health Authority in that respect serves a most useful purpose: such help is, or should be, complementary to that of friends or relatives whenever these are available.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their warm encouragement throughout the year, Mr. T. C. Ellison for his co-operation and Mr. E. Hollis for his valuable help on all occasions. As in previous years Miss M. Imeson and Miss J. Waite contributed materially to the smooth running of affairs.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. BUTCHER,

Medical Officer of Health.

BROTON,

30th May, 1953.

TABLE 1**Public Health Officers**

Whole Time Officers	Guisborough Urban District	Skelton & Brotton Urban District	Loftus Urban District
Medical Officer of Health also District Medical Officer No. 4 Area N.R.C.C.	Dr. W. H. Butcher		
Sanitary Inspectors	Mr. J. A. Thompson*	Mr. J. Pattison	Mr. E. Hollis*
Additional Sanitary Inspectors	Mr. E. Ward		

* Also Surveyor of the district concerned

SECTION I**Vital Statistics and Social Conditions**

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the district in the mid-year 1952 was 7,543, as compared with one of 7,346 for the mid-year 1951.

I am indebted to the Council's Financial Officer who has supplied me with the following figures:—

1. Area in acres	....	....	....	9,974
2. No. of inhabited houses according to rate books	....	....	....	2,405
3. Rateable Value	....	....	....	£29,695
4. Sum represented by a penny rate	....	....	....	£113

The district consists of the neat country town of Loftus, the industrial communities of Skinningrove and part of Carlin How and the hamlets of Liverton, Scaling, Easington, Street Houses and Cowbar. These are situated amidst agricultural lands studded with farms, while to the south lie moors to the height of nearly 1,000 feet above sea level. The whole is intersected by deeply cut wooded valleys. To the north there is a coast-line of bold cliffs attaining to the height of 699 feet, the highest cliff in England and Wales. The principal industries within the district are the Skinningrove Iron and Steel Works and agriculture. Cleveland is associated in the popular imagination with ironstone mining, but only one mine is still working in the district and inshore fishing has practically ceased as a means of livelihood. There was full employment among the inhabitants throughout the year, an important factor in maintaining health, both physical and mental.

TABLE 2—Vital Statistics

CAUSES OF DEATH

	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningo-coccal infections	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	—	—
Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus	1	—
Malignant neoplasm of breast	—	2
Malignant neoplasm of uterus	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	3
Leukaemia	—	—
Diabetes	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	8
Coronary disease, angina	5	1
Hypertension with heart disease	—	—
Other heart diseases	8	9
Other circulatory diseases	1	1
Influenza	1	4
Pneumonia	—	—
Bronchitis	4	—
Other diseases of the respiratory system	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—
Gastro-enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
Pregnancy, child-birth, and abortion	—	1
Congenital malformations	—	1
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	5	3
Motor vehicle accidents	—	—
All other accidents	1	—
Suicide	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
ALL CAUSES	43	35

Deaths

The deaths are classified under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948. Seventy-eight deaths of residents give a death rate of 10.7 per thousand of the population; allowing for differing age and sex distribution the comparable death rate is 10.8 compared with 11.3 for England and Wales. Table 2 shows clearly what killed people in Loftus in 1952.

TABLE 3

Live Births			MALE	FEMALE
Total	....	....	78	67
Legitimate	....	....	74	65
Illegitimate	....	....	4	2
Still Births			MALE	FEMALE
Total	....	....	—	2
Legitimate	....	....	—	2
Illegitimate	....	....	—	—
Deaths of Infants				
(under 1 year of age)			MALE	FEMALE
Total	....	....	2	2
Legitimate	....	....	2	2
Illegitimate	....	....	—	—

Births

The number of births registered in the district during the year was 145, giving a birth-rate of 19 per thousand of the population, or a corrected one of 19.75 as compared with 15.3 for England and Wales. Four infants under the age of one year died, giving an infantile mortality rate of 27.5 per thousand live births compared with one of 27.6 for England and Wales. All the four infants who died were under four weeks of age.

SECTION II

Infectious Diseases

Table 5 shows the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases except tuberculosis.

Infantile Paralysis

The case of infantile paralysis was fully investigated by me; no connection with any known source of infection was discovered.

Diphtheria

No case was notified. Immunization was available to children either at the hands of the family doctor or at the School Clinic of the North Riding Education Authority at Carlin How, while I was able to arrange sessions at the various schools where I gave reinforcing doses to children who had been immunized earlier in life.

TABLE 4

Immunization against Diphtheria

<i>Age Groups</i>			
0 to 4 years	....	....	90
5 to 14 years	....	....	49
Reinforcing doses	....	....	251

TABLE 5
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1952
(other than Tuberculosis)

	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 year	2	3	4	5—	10—	15—	25—	35—	45—	65—	Age un- known
Scarlet Fever	4	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Measles	83	2	7	10	9	9	46	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	14	1	2	2	3	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—

Smallpox

Twenty-seven immunizations were performed during the year, all by the family doctors. This important preventive measure appears now almost disregarded.

Tuberculosis

Three new cases of respiratory tuberculosis and one case of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year. The rehousing of infectious consumptives has received the favourable consideration of the Local Authority on all occasions.

TABLE 6

Tuberculosis

AGE GROUPS		RESPIRATORY FORM		NON-RESPIRATORY FORM	
Years		Male	Female	Male	Female
0 to 4	—	—	—	—
5 to 9	—	—	—	—
10 to 14	—	1	—	—
15 to 19	—	—	—	—
20 to 24	—	1	—	1
25 to 34	—	—	—	—
45 to 54	—	—	—	—
55 to 64	—	1	—	—
65 to 74	—	—	—	—

Whooping Cough

Towards the end of the year a combined prophylactic to protect against both diphtheria and whooping cough was brought into use for infants.

SECTION III—Water Supplies

TABLE 7

Bacteriological Results—Cleveland Water Co. Treated Waters

No. of Sample	Date 1952	No. of colonies developing on Agar per ml. at 37° C. in 2 days	Presumptive Coliform Reaction from 100 ml.	Bact. Coli Type 1 from 100 ml.
1	25th February	56	absent	absent
2	6th May	4	present	absent
3	27th May	2	absent	absent
4	14th October	2	absent	absent

TABLE 8

Chemical Results in parts per million—Cleveland Water Co.

No. of sample	No. 4	Ammoniacal nitrogen	...	0.15
Date of sample	14.10.53	Albuminoid nitrogen	...	0.063
Reaction pH	6.7	Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at		
Total solids	100	27° C. ....	....	3.3
Chlorine as chlorides	17	Alkalinity as calcium carbonate		25
Hardness: Carbonate	25	Free carbon dioxide	....	7
Non-carbonate	25	Iron	....	0.16
Nitrate nitrogen	0.60	Manganese	....	0.04
Nitrite nitrogen	less than 0.01	Other metals absent		

Tables 7 and 8 show the satisfactory quality of the treated water delivered by the Cleveland Water Company. The results are in agreeable contrast with most of those in Table 9.

TABLE 9

Miscellaneous Waters—Bacteriological Results

Source	Date 1952	No. of colonies developing on Agar per ml. at 37° C. in 2 days	Presumptive Coliform Reaction from 100 ml.	Bact. Coli Type 1 from 100 ml.
Cowbar	23rd June	1	present	present
Cowbar	1st September	uncountable	present	present
Foulsyke	1st September	6	present	present
Three Crosses Well (tap at Redhouse)	21st April	10	absent	absent
Street Houses	25th February	50	present	present
Street Houses	21st April	9	absent	absent
Old Liverton	21st April	17	absent	absent
7 Westfield Terr. Tap, Easington	25th February	40	present	absent
Cross Roads	25th February	74	absent	absent
Three Crosses Well (Store tank in field)	25th February	28	present	absent
Spring Chamber (Trent Head)	6th May	10	present	present
Watercourse below Goldenhill	21st April	50	present	present
46 Boulby Cottages	21st April	20	present	absent
7 Westfield Terr.	21st April	6	present	absent

Of the 2,405 houses 1,584 are supplied into the dwellings from the mains of the Cleveland Water Company, the statutory water undertaking; 330 into the dwellings from the mains of the Zetland Estates (South Loftus), of the Downe Estates (Liverton Mines) and of the Whitby Rural District Council; and 203 by means of standpipes. The remaining 288 derive their water from wells, streams or various small supplies serving a few houses.

SECTION IV

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

No outbreak of food poisoning was notified to me throughout the year.

Milk Supplies

There are nine distributors or producer-distributors. The following samples of milk were taken by me and submitted to the necessary tests. The results are below:—

TABLE 10

No. of Sample	Date of taking same	Name of Producer	Name of Distributor	Type of Milk	Statutory Tests	Biological Test for Tubercle Bacilli	Test for Brucellus Abortus
1	27.11.52	Pennock	Watson	Undesignated	Satisfactory	Negative	Negative
2	27.11.52	Pennock	Watson	Pasteurised	Unsatisfactory	Negative	Negative
3	27.11.52	C.W.S.	Co-op. Soc. Ltd. Loftus	Pasteurised	Satisfactory	Negative	Negative
4	31.12.52	Pennock	Watson	Undesignated	Satisfactory	Negative	Negative
5	31.12.52	Swallowwell	Swallowwell	Undesignated	Satisfactory	Negative	Negative

Meat and other Foods

There are six private slaughter houses in the district which are at present unused.

Bakehouses

There are two bakehouses used in the district. Eleven inspections of these were carried out.

Fish Frying

There are ten fish frying premises in the district. These were inspected on seventy occasions.

Ice Cream

There are sixteen premises registered for the sale of this foodstuff; none is manufactured in the district.

Byelaws

Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938 for securing the observance of Sanitary and Cleanly Practices and Conditions in connection with the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the open air.

Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949

No action was necessary under the above during the year.

SECTION V—Housing

I am indebted to Mr. E. Hollis, your Sanitary Inspector, for the figures produced in the table below.

TABLE 11
Housing Statistics

Number of New Houses erected in 1952

(a) By the Council	....	....	....	....	34
(b) Other	....	....	....	....	2

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	....	....	116
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	....	....	184
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	....	....	24
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	....	....	38
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	....	....	32
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	....	....	75

Table 11—Housing Statistics—continued

2.	<i>Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices</i>	
(1)	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	47
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses where work is in progress but not yet completed	3
(3)	Number of Notices in course of preparation (not yet served)	—
(4)	Number of Notices outstanding	3
3.	<i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year</i>	
A.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	32
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit after service of formal notices	
(a)	By Owners	32
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	—
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	75
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(a)	By owners	75
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	—
C.	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	1
D.	Proceedings under Section 12, Housing Act, 1936	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—
4.	<i>Housing Act, 1935, Overcrowding</i>	
(1)	(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	16
	(b) Number of families dwelling therein	36
	(c) Number of persons dwelling therein	122
(2)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	11
(3)	(a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	7
	(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases	48
(4)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—

SECTION VI

Sanitary Circumstances of the District

I give below a table of some of the sanitary work done during the year by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E. Hollis.

TABLE 12
Nuisance Inspections

Total No. of inspections made for nuisances only (not including housing inspections)	487
Nuisances found	174
Nuisances in hand, end of	
previous year	12
Notices served, informal	171
Notices served, statutory	15
Total number of summonses or other legal proceedings	Nil
Total needing abatement	186
Abated during year	176
Outstanding at end of year	10
Complied with	164
Complied with	12

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.

There are no common lodging houses, houses let in lodgings, knackers yards or tents, vans and sheds in the district.

Byelaws in force in the District

Building Byelaws, 21st August, 1939.

Closet Accommodation

There are 127 privies with fixed receptacles and 311 pail closets in the district. In addition, there are 1,898 water closets. Two privies were reconstructed during the year as water closets and twelve closets other than privies. Thirty-six water closets were constructed for new houses. The Council allows a grant of £3 10 - per conversion of privies or pail closets to water closets.

Scavenging

Public scavenging is in operation throughout the district. The refuse is disposed of by means of tipping. The present tip at Loftus is not maintained in accordance with the standards of Controlled Tipping. The matter is receiving the attention of the Council.

Shops Act, 1934, Sections 10 and 13

Forty-four visits were paid under the above section. Unsatisfactory conditions were found in six instances and remedied.

Drainage and Sewerage

There is no sewage disposal works in the district, the sewage being discharged into the sea. A sewerage scheme for Cowbar is before the Ministry.

Skinningrove Iron and Steel Company Ltd.

Since about July, 1952, there has been a considerable emission of dust from the tippler and the crusher. The matter has received and is receiving the careful attention of the company and the local sanitary authority.

SECTION VII : Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

The following figures have been returned to the Director of Statistics, Ministry of Labour and National Service, regarding factories in the district.

TABLE 13

1. Inspections for the purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector)

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	23	53	6	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	—	—	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3 (Building Sites)	41	—	—
TOTAL	26	94	6	—

2. Cases in which defects were found

	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	5	5	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	—	—
Sanitary inconveniences (a) insufficient (b) unsuitable or defective	— —	— —	— —	— —
TOTAL	6	6	—	—

Report to the Port Sanitary Authority for the year 1952

I beg to state that during the year no vessel entered or left the Port of Skinningrove.

